

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 3, 4, 6, 7, 14, 19 and 20. These Figures have been modified to use the labels "Yes" and "No" at the appropriate portions next to decision blocks as pointed out by the Examiner.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 23-35 and 38 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

Abstract

The Abstract has been amended as required by the Examiner.

Drawings

The drawings have been corrected as requested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 23-35 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,547) in view of either Griffin (U.S. Patent No. 5,666,402) or Nysen et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,164,985). Claims 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al, as applied to claims 23-35 and 38, in view of either Prinsze (U.S. Patent No.

4,092,580) and further/or Kuriyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,910,652). These rejections are traversed as follows.

Claim 23 has been amended to clarify a feature of the present invention which relates to a control circuit that controls a switching circuit to switch to a first path to connect to a first external device when the external device provides service to a user and controls the switching circuit to switch from the first path to a second path, thereby disconnecting the first external device, at a time of transaction of electronic money information. Claim 23 also recites that the first path connects the first external device, which provides service to a user of the IC card, and the communication circuit while being disconnected from the data processor. Claim 23 further recites that the second path connects the data processor and the communication circuit for transferring electronic money information to the second external device while being disconnected from the first external device.

These features are neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the cited references. The Examiner admits that Jones et al do not appear to explicitly disclose a control circuit which controls a data processor to switch from a first path to a second path at a time of transaction of electronic money and relies upon Griffin or Nysen et al to supply this missing disclosure. However, it is submitted that none of these references disclose the transaction of electronic money information from/to an IC card by switching a path between a processor processing the electronic money information from/to the IC card and an external terminal that provides service to a user of the IC card. Not only does Jones et al fail to disclose this feature, Griffin and

Nysen et al also fail to disclose this feature as they generally relate to data transactions.

The deficiencies in these primary references are not overcome by resort to Prinsze or Kuriyama which are applied to dependent claims 28-30. Neither Prinsze nor Kuriyama disclose by switching paths as claimed. As such, it is submitted that all of the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Request for Interview

In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants request that the Examiner conduct an interview with the undersigned at an appropriate time convenient for the Examiner. As such, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to arrange an appropriate date and time for such interview.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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